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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 12, 13, 16 and 24, and amend the claims to read as set forth in the following listing of the claims. The status of each claim is set forth in the listing of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A carpet comprising:

a layer of tufting;

a primary backing layer receiving tufting of the tufting layer;

a breathable membrane impervious to liquid, and a further abrasion-protective backing layer for protecting the membrane from abrasion, the membrane being located between the primary layer and the further backing layer, and wherein both the tufting layer and the primary backing layer are permeable to water vapor;

a breathable stabilizing layer in contact with the breathable membrane for dimensional stability of the membrane and the carpet;

wherein the further abrasion-protective backing layer comprises an apertured film laminated to the membrane on a side thereof opposite the tufting layer; and

wherein the further abrasion-protective backing layer is composed of breathable material disposed on a side of the membrane opposite the tufting layer for allowing transport of water vapor through the carpet from a floor covered by the carpet while protecting the membrane from abrasion caused by contact of the carpet with the floor.

2. (Previously presented) A carpet according to claim 1, wherein the stabilizing layer consists essentially of interconnected yarns or fibers, plastic netting, or a grid of plastic.

3. (Original) A carpet according to claim 2, wherein the stabilizing layer comprises interconnected yarns having the form of cross-laid scrim or woven fibers.